



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

14 OCTOBER 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Fresno – Hackers Strike United Health Centers Network

(U) The United Health Centers (UHC), which operates nearly two dozen health clinics in Fresno, Kings, and Tulare counties, were reportedly targeted in a recent ransomware attack by computer hackers. A group known as the Vice Society claimed responsibility for the attack and dumped some of the documents onto the internet. The ransomware attack reportedly forced UHC to shut down its entire computer network for a time. UHC is working with third-party forensic specialists to investigate the source of the disruption and determine its impact on the information system. The computer systems were quickly restored to full functionality to avoid disruptions to patient care.

SOURCE: 13 October 2021, [GovTech](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Arizona – US Border Patrol Agents Seize More than 50-Pounds of Fentanyl Hidden Under Truck Bed

(U) Tucson – US Customs and Border Protection reported they stopped a white Ford F-150 Monday morning at the Interstate 19 immigration checkpoint near Amado, Arizona. Border Patrol agents in the Tucson Sector discovered more than 50-pounds of fentanyl pills after a canine alerted agents to the truck. Agents found the fentanyl hidden under the bed of the pickup after closer inspection. Agents proceeded to arrest the driver of the vehicle, described as a 33-year-old female US citizen.

SOURCE: 13 October 2021, [FOX News](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Florida – Georgia Man and California Woman Sentenced in COVID-19 Relief Scam

(U) Miami – Dennes Garcia, 28, of Atlanta, and Cindi Denton, 63, have been sentenced to prison for fraudulently obtaining COVID-19 relief funds through a program designed to help small businesses across the nation stay afloat. Denton admitted to getting a PPP loan of \$491,310 for her company, Emerald Jade Solutions Inc., based on false information about the company's number of employees and average payroll, and false supporting tax documents. Both Denton and Garcia said they paid alleged co-conspirator James Stote as a kickback for his assistance in preparing and submitting a fraudulent loan application. Authorities charged Stote with wire fraud, bank fraud, and conspiracy to commit wire fraud in June 2020, his case is pending.

SOURCE: 14 October 2021, [US News](#)

(U) Illinois – Five Reputed Gang Members Charged in RICO Conspiracy that Includes Fatal Shooting

(U) Chicago – Five alleged Chicago street gang members have been charged in a racketeering conspiracy accusing them of a pattern of violence that includes the downtown slaying of Chicago rapper FBG Duck last year. The 11-page indictment alleged those charged are members of the O-Block gang, a violent faction of the Black Disciples. The gang has publicly claimed responsibility for violence and used social

UNCLASSIFIED

media and music to increase their criminal enterprise. Most of those charged were arrested early Wednesday in the area controlled by the gang. The indictment is the latest instance of gang violence linked to rap music in Chicago. This gang-war, waged predominantly online, has frustrated law enforcement as so-called "dis-tracks" escalate quickly into a cycle of shootings and retaliation.

SOURCE: 13 October 2021, [Chicago Tribune](#)

(U) Texas – 16 Arrested in Multi-Agency Prostitution Sting Operation

(U) Lubbock – Sixteen people are behind bars following a multi-agency prostitution sting operation in early October. The operation, conducted by the Lubbock Police Department's Special Operations Division and the Department of Public Safety and Homeland Security, took place on 6 and 7 October at various hotels across Lubbock. Authorities made 16 arrests for solicitation of prostitution. The sting operation comes on the heels of a new Texas prostitution law that went into effect on 1 September 2021. The law, which turned the crime of soliciting prostitution from a Class B Misdemeanor to a State Jail Felony, carries up to two-years in state prison and a fine of up to \$10,000.

SOURCE: 13 October 2021, [KLTU](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Nigeria – 29 Terrorists Neutralized, 13 Arrested as Part of Ongoing Operation

(U) Gwoza – Nigerian military personnel have neutralized 29 terrorists and arrested 13 terrorists, including their informants/collaborators and logistics suppliers, as part of an ongoing operation. Nigerian Defense Headquarters Officials announced that, as of reporting, 13,243 terrorists and their families have surrendered to troops in North-Eastern Nigeria. According to officials, the surrendered terrorists comprise of 3,243 males, 3,868 females, and 6,234 children. A series of land and air operations conducted in different locations across the North East theatre has reduced the operational capabilities of the insurgents. The surrenders follow the death of Boko Haram's leader, who died in May.

SOURCE: 13 October 2021, [Daily Post](#)

(U) Nigeria – Abu Musab al-Barnawi, Leader of Islamic State West Africa Province Confirmed Dead

(U) Lagos – The Chief of Defense Staff General confirmed that Abu Musab al-Barnawi, Leader of Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) is dead. The Staff General provided no details regarding Barnawi's death circumstances, and ISWAP has not commented on the claims. ISWAP has been seen as the most powerful jihadist group in Nigeria since Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau died in May. Little is known about Barnawi, including his age and appearance. Before becoming leader of ISWAP, Barnawi served as a spokesperson for Boko Haram before eventually defecting to ISWAP.

SOURCE: 14 October 2021, [BBC](#)

(U) Norway – Bow-and-Arrow Attack Investigated as Terrorist Act According to Police

(U) Kongsberg – A 37-year-old Danish citizen, who appeared to act alone, killed five people in a town southwest of Oslo using a bow-and-arrow. The victims, four women and a man were all between 50 and 70 years old. Police said the ongoing investigation should give more details and find the motive behind the killings. The regional police chief informed reporters that the man was a Muslim convert, and police had received reports in the past that he may have been radicalized. Norwegian media reported that a court had granted a restraining order last year for the alleged attacker to stay away from two of his family members for six-months after he threatened to kill one of them. A police attorney said psychiatric experts would assess the attacker soon, and that the attacker had confessed to Wednesday's attack.

SOURCE: 13 October 2021, [Washington Post](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) Spain – Authorities Arrest Five People Suspected of Being Members of an Islamic Extremist Group

(U) Barcelona – Spanish police arrested five suspects, four in Barcelona and one in Madrid, believed to be part of an Islamic extremist group. The five suspects sought to recruit others to its cause and attempted to acquire weapons. Police said anti-terrorism officers decided to detain the group upon learning that one member was trying to purchase a Kalashnikov assault rifle. Police discovered machetes and ammunition upon arrests. The group's alleged leader, a man known as "Sheikh," was arrested in Turkey in 2016 when he tried to join the Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS). He entered Spain in March and allegedly began recruiting and indoctrinating others to his cause, police said.

SOURCE: 13 October 2021, [Washington Post](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.

UNCLASSIFIED